



HR1378

LRB098 23470 GRL 62632 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives have learned of the death of an Illinois
4 resident who holds the distinction of being the person elected
5 to serve as the mayor of the largest American city to be
6 governed by a woman; and

7 WHEREAS, Jane M. Byrne highlighted a lengthy career of
8 public service and civic involvement by serving as Mayor of
9 Chicago from 1979 until 1983; she is remembered as a dynamic
10 leader, loving mother and grandmother, innovator, and friend;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, During her mayoral term, Jane M. Byrne tackled
13 issues like collapsing school finances and contentious labor
14 relations head on; she also moved into the Cabrini Green public
15 housing project to focus the need for better police and public
16 service in troubled neighborhoods; and

17 WHEREAS, Jane M. Byrne understood the need to showcase the
18 unmatched natural beauty of the City's Lake Michigan shoreline;
19 she also helped create the "Taste of Chicago" and propelled the
20 City into becoming a leading domestic tourism destination,
21 which enabled Chicago to be recognized as "America's Most
22 Livable City" by the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

1 WHEREAS, Jane M. Byrne's vision of Chicago as a modern
2 international destination led to the creation of unique direct
3 rapid transit links to O'Hare and Midway Airports; and

4 WHEREAS, Jane M. Byrne recognized the need for new jobs to
5 take Chicago from being a manufacturing hub to a prosperous
6 center of creativity through efforts like the High Tech Task
7 Force; and

8 WHEREAS, Jane M. Byrne is recognized as a pioneer on gun
9 safety for approving the first ordinance to get handguns off
10 the streets; and

11 WHEREAS, While breaking gender barriers was a highlight of
12 her career, Jane M. Byrne was by any standard a dynamic elected
13 official; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we express our sympathies to Jane M. Byrne's daughter, Kathy
17 Byrne, her grandson, Willy, her brother Edward Burke, and her
18 sisters Carol Burke Sexton and Jill Burke Wolf, and honor Jane
19 M. Byrne for her years of service and for making Illinois a
20 better place; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Jane M. Byrne as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.